

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 790

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Charles W. "Chuck"
Johnson of the University of Tennessee at
Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Dr. Charles W. "Chuck" Johnson, University of Tennessee Associate Professor Emeritus of History and a noted war historian; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson was an exemplary teacher and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Clinton, in Anderson County, Dr. Johnson was a highly respected member of the U. T. Knoxville faculty as well as the Clinton community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson served with distinction as a professor of history until his retirement in 1998, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and students alike for the superior quality of his work. In 1984, he founded and directed the Center for the Study of War and Society, and left a rich and lasting legacy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson conducted over 100 oral histories with veterans of the Second World War and constructed a rich manuscript collection documenting the human dimension of that global conflict; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson had a distinct gift for teaching and reveled in the opportunity to take his students on tours of the landing beaches and battlefields of Normandy; The University of Tennessee National Alumni Association recognized his outstanding abilities as a teacher in 1985 by naming him the Outstanding Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the Center for the Study of War and Society established the Charles W. Johnson Lecture Series; in March, Dr. Johnson was able to attend the inaugural lecture for this annual event, along with family, friends, colleagues and veterans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. G. Kurt Piehler, Director of the Center, expressed the hope that the lecture series would continue Dr. Johnson's work of discerning the great moral lessons of the Second World War and communicating them to future generations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John Finger, Head of the History Department at U. T. Knoxville, and friend of Dr. Johnson for more than 30 years, said of him "Chuck was a terrific friend and colleague and the kind of faculty member that we all aspire to be"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Joan Johnson; he is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Marge and Richard Saari; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional teacher and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. Charles W. "Chuck" Johnson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Johnson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.